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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria
 SUBJECT Infantry in Cipran

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The village of Cipran is 45 km east-northeast of Plovdiv, on the Plovdiv-Stara Zagora road. A new barracks has been built at the southern edge of the village. The barracks consists of a two-story command building, 22 by 75 m; a one-story hospital, 20 by 40 m; a two-story quarters and assembly hall, 20 by 70 m; a three-story quarters, 25 by 95 m; a one-story magazine, 20 by 40 m; a one-story stable, 20 by 40 m. The complex has a capacity of 750 to 800 men.
2. It is occupied by a rifle battalion. The unit is subordinate to the regimental command in Stara Zagora. The men have bright red shoulder boards.
3. There is a staff company, about 55 men, with pistols and Soviet rifles; a communications platoon, 35 men, a mortar platoon, 30 to 34 men, with two 82 mm mortars, four machine-pistols, 27 Or 28 rifles; an AT platoon, 34 to 36 men, with two 57 mm AT guns, five machine-pistols, 26 rifles; 1st Rifle Company, 85 to 90 men, five pistols, 16 machine-pistols, 45 rifles, nine Degtyarev light machine guns; 2nd Rifle Company, commanded by Lt. Georgieff, 80 to 85 men, armed as the previous; 3rd Rifle Company, 80 to 82 men, armed as the 1st Company; a heavy machine gun company, 86 to 90 men, with 12 Maxim heavy machine guns, 12 machine-pistols, 48 rifles, five pistols.
4. In Oct 1952 the battalion received 180 to 200 recruits, mostly from northern Bulgaria.
5. Recruit training began at once and continued until 1 Apr 53. After the first three months recruits were assigned to specialist formations, such as heavy machine guns and AT. Training was extremely hard. Under new orders recruits were

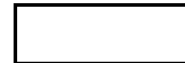
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required to exercise even in the heaviest weather. The training officers were never satisfied with the results of target practice. At each target shoot, which took place twice a week, 25 bullets were allotted to each man. During each month there was a night alarm. The regimental commander inspected the unit monthly. Political training took place for an hour three times weekly.

6. Morale is poor.

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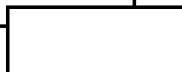


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